

Message Text

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AMCONSUL KARACHI

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, PK
SUBJ: SPECIAL TRADE OPPORTUNITY: AGRICULTURAL
MANAGEMENT

1. IMTIAZ MEHDI, CHAIRMAN GOP BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT (BIM), KARACHI, RECENTLY DISCUSSED LONG-RANGE AGRICULTURAL PLANS WITH USAID ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR AGRICULTURE. MEHDI INDICATED PLANS FOR LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS AND DESIRE FOR US TECHNICAL SERVICES/MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE.
2. FIRST PROJECT WOULD INVOLVE 25,000 ACRES FOR PRODUCTION OF OIL SEEDS AND LIVESTOCK. THIS WOULD LATER BE FOLLOWED BY SECOND PROJECT OF 50,000 ACRES FOR OIL SEED PRODUCTION DURING FIRST FOUR TO FIVE YEARS FOLLOWED BY PLANTATION OF POPLARS FOR WIND-BREAK WITH SUGAR CANE PRODUCTION. TENTATIVE PLANS ON THIS PROPERTY WOULD EVENTUALLY INCLUDE BOTH SUGAR AND PULP MILLS. A THIRD PROJECT FURTHER IN THE FUTURE WAS NOT DESIGNATED AS TO ACREAGE OR CROP TYPE.
3. MEHDI IS TENTATIVELY THINKING ALONG THE LINES OF A US FIRM PROVIDING MANAGING DIRECTOR, AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION MANAGER AND AGRO-INDUSTRIAL MANAGER. HE MIGHT CONSIDER UTILIZING THESE EXPERTS IN THE NEAR-TERM FUTURE AS CONSULTANTS WITH CONVERSION TO A LONGER TERM MANAGEMENT, PROBABLY THREE-

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YEAR, CONTRACT AT A LATER DATE. MEHDI BELIEVES THAT ONCE

PLANNING REACHES A MORE SPECIFIC STAGE, THE GOP CAN DEVELOP INTEREST IN THESE PROJECTS FROM THE PERSIAN GULF AREA.

4. IN SECOND CONVERSATION WITH USAID OFF MEHDI SAID BIM ALREADY ALLOTTED 1,000 ACRES AND EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENT TO TOTAL OF 3,000 ACES. PURPOSE OF THIS ALLOTMENT IS PRODUCTION HIGH QUALITY SEEDS. MEHDI WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO PROPOSALS FOR MANAGEMENT/TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT PROVIDING US PRODUCTION AND MARKETING EXPERTISE.

5. ADDRESS ALL INQUIRIES TO MR. IMTIAZ MEHDI, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT, 6TH FLOOR, NATIONAL SHIPPING CORPORATION BLDG., MAULVI TANIZUDDIN ROAD, KARACHI.

6. COMMENT. AT THE CONCLUSION OF INFORMAL MEETING IN PAKISTAN BETWEEN PM BHUTTO AND SHAIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN, PRESIDENT, UAE, AGREEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED TO CONSIDER DOLS30 MILLION AGRICULTURE AND CATTLE FARM JOINT PROJECT IN PAKISTAN. THIS PROJECT WOULD BE EXPORT ORIENTED TOWARD THE UAE AND NEIGHBORING STATES. NO FURTHER DETAILS WERE PROVIDED AND THE EMB IS NOT AWARE IF THIS IS THE SAME PROJECT MEHDI WAS OUTLINING IN PARA 2. CONGEN KARACHI MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS.
BYROADE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AGRICULTURE.

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